

## Newspaper Article: "Lynch Law in Virginia"

### Activity: "From Whose Perspective?"

Distribute copies of the newspaper article to students. Have students read the headlines. Discuss their meanings, and ensure that students understand what lynch law or lynching means. As a group, read the article aloud. Have students reconstruct what they believe happened. Following this, use these questions to generate a class discussion:

- ◆ When was this article probably written? What clues in the new story help determine the time period?
- ◆ From whose viewpoint is this article written?
- ◆ Why does the article use the term, "colored men?" Why is that term not used today?
- ◆ This article was published in a newspaper called *The Richmond Planet* that was published by an African-American man. How do you think the mainstream press reported this story?
- ◆ How would the mainstream press relate such a story today?

Discuss societal changes that have occurred since the turn of the century. Racism still exists today, but often isn't as overt. Have students bring in news stories that tell about racism. Talk about the articles and about what students can do to combat prejudice.

# Lynch Law

IN

# VIRGINIA.

Five Human Lives  
Sacrificed.

## A MOB'S FURY.

An Innocent Man  
a Victim.

No One Punished.

### THE GRAND JURY SIGHTLESS AND BLIND.

The lynching of five colored men Feb. 1st, 1898, at Richlands, Va., is no doubt fresh in the minds of our readers.

The unfortunate victims were charged with the murder of two white men of Grand Lumber Co., named KATZ and SHAW, who had come to the town of Richlands with the intention of taking back some freight to their home.

It is alleged that they were drinking and were asked by Jerry Brown for a cigarette.

They did not have, but beer was

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